

Message Text

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21/42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

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O R 270955Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 862

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USCINCEUR

USMISSION USUN

USIA WASHDC

CINCUSAFE

USNMR SHAPE

UNCLAS ANKARA 7353

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 6. LAST LINE)

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, TU, CY GR

SUBJ: TURKISH PRESS ON FORD INTERVIEW

WITH TURKISH BUSINESSMEN;

COVERAGE OF NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION ON EMBARGO

REF: ANKARA 7328

1. TURKISH PRESS SATURDAY (SEPT. 27) GAVE MODERATE TO HEAVY
COVERAGE TO A PRESS CONFERENCE FRIDAY BY MEMBERS OF A BUSINESSMEN'S
DELEGATION WHICH RECENTLY VISITED WASHINGTON TO EXPLAIN TURKISH VIEWS
ON THE EMBARGO AND THE CYPRUS ISSUE. THE RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE
LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO PASSED AT THE MEETING OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC
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ASSEMBLY IN COPENHAGEN ALSO RECEIVED FRONT PAGE COVERAGE IN SOME

MAJOR DAILIES.

2. MOST ACCOUNTS OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE FOCUSSED ON REMARKS BY DELEGATION LEADER FEYYAZ BERKER THAT TURKEY WAS LITTLE KNOWN TO THE AMERICAN PUBLIC AND THE CONGRESS. BUT THE LEFT WING DAILIES CUMHURIYET AND GUNAYDIN CARRIED LENGTHY ACCOUNTS OF AN INTERVIEW BETWEEN DELEGATION MEMBERS AND PRESIDENT FORD. CUMHURIYET AND GUNAYDIN REPORTED THAT NOTES OF THE DELEGATION'S MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT WERE DISTRIBUTED AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE.

3. CUMHURIYET'S HEADLINE DECLARED: "FORD: 'AS SOON AS THE EMBARGO IS LIFTED, TURKEY MUST PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS FOR A CYPRUS SOLUTION'". THE STORY QUOTED MR. FORD AS SAYING: "YOU KNOW HOW WRONG THE CONGRESS IS AND HOW MUCH EFFORT I AND SECRETARY KISSINGER HAVE EXERTED TO CONVINCE THE CONGRESS. I HAVE PUT MY PRETIGE AS PRESIDENT BEHIND THIS MATTER. I MUST TELL YOU THAT THE CONGRESSIONAL DECISION HAS MADE THE MAJORITY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AS UNHAPPY AS I AM. WE ARE DOING ALL WE CAN HERE. WE ARE WORKING TOWARD RESTORING TURKISH AMERICAN RELATIONS....

"WE ALSO KNOW THE EXPECTATIONS OF PUBLIC OPINION IN TURKEY AND YOUR PROBLEMS IN DOMESTIC POLITICS. BUT GREECE ALSO HAS VERY SEVERE PROBLEMS, VERY STRONG PRESSURE BY PUBLIC OPINION ON THE GREEK GOVERNMENT. FOR THAT REASON, IT IS NOT VERY EASY TO LIFT THE EMBARGO TOTALLY. WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THAT THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT MUST PUT FORTH PROPOSALS FOR THE SOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS ISSUE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE POSITIVE DECISION OF THE CONGRESS ON THE EMBARGO ISSUE. AFTER THE CONGRESS TAKES A POSITIVE DECISION ON THE EMBARGO, IF TURKEY CANNOT MAKE CLEAR HER DECISIVENESS AND SUGGEST SOLUTIONS, THE PRESSURE BY THE CONGRESS WILL BE HEAVIER IN TWO MONTHS AND MOST PROBABLY I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO STAND AGAINST IT. TIME IS A VERY IMPORTANT FACTOR IN THE CYPRUS ISSUE. MOST PROBABLY THE EMBARGO WILL BE LIFTED. BUT THE CYPRUS ISSUE MUST BE SOLVED AS SOON AS IT IS LIFTED."

4. ACCOUNTS OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION WERE STRAIGHTFORWARD. THEY NOTED PROMINENTLY THAT GREECE HAD VOTED AGAINST THE RESOLUTION AND THAT FRANCE HAD ABSTAINED.

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5. IN OTHER EMBARGO-RELATED COVERAGE, MILLIYET WAHSINGTON CORRESPONDENT SAMI KOHEN REPORTED AN INTERVIEW WITH REPRESENTATIVE PAUL FINDLEY, WHO DENIED THAT STATEMENTS HE MADE IN THE EMBARGO DEBATE IMPLIED SUPPORT FOR THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT IN THE OCTOBER 12 ELECTIONS. ACCORDING TO KOHEN, FINDLEY DECLARED THAT HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF TURKISH DOMESTIC POLITIC AND WAS INTERESTED ONLY IN SEEING THE "FUNDAMENTALLY MISTAKEN EMBARGO DECISION REVERSED."

6. IN EDITORIAL COMMENT, MILLIYET EDITOR ABDI IPEKCI NOTED THE FINDLEY STATEMENT, BUT ALSO NOTED A WASHINGTON POST EDITORIAL WHICH REPORTEDLY DECLARED THE FORD ADMINISTRATION IS INTERESTED IN STRENGTHENING THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT. IPEKCI ASSERTED THAT, IN FACT, NO ONE KNOWS WHAT EFFECTS LIFTING THE EMBARGO WOULD HAVE ON THE TURKISH ELECTIONS. HE RECALLED THAT PRIME MINISTER SULEYMAN DEMIREL WAS AT PAINS RECENTLY TO DECRY ASSERTIONS BY NATO SECGEN LUNS THAT A LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO WOULD HELP STRENGTHEN THE POSITION OF HIS GOVERNMENT. IPEKCI CONCLUDED THAT EFFORTS TO LIFT THE EMBARGO MUST BE AIMED AT CORRECTING A SERIOUS AND DAMAGING ERROR AND NOT AT INFLUENCING TURKISH DOMESTIC POLITICS. MACOMBER

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